

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
In re Application of: Vick
Serial No. 10/676,579
Filing Date: January 29, 2004
Page 4 of 10

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A device for tightening a strap around freight, comprising:

- a. a body capable of being rotated and comprising:
 - i. a means for holding a first end of a strap; and
 - ii. a first head positioned at a first end of the body for receiving a torsion arm; and
- b. a clamp coupled to the body for holding a second end of the strap and comprising:
 - i. at least two clamp arms, wherein at least one arm is rotatably coupled to the clamp; and
 - ii. a cam rotatably coupled to the clamp for securing the at least two clamp arms at a second end.

36. (Original) The device of claim 35, wherein the means for holding a strap comprises a slot.

37. (Cancelled) The device of claim 35, further comprising a cam rotatably coupled to the clamp for securing the at least two clamp arms at a second end.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In re Application of: Vick

Serial No. 10/676,579

Filing Date: January 29, 2004

Page 5 of 10

38. (Original) The device of claim 37, further comprising a locking arm coupled to the cam for attaching the cam to the clamp arm.

Claims 39-40 (Cancelled)

41. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the torsion arm is capable of rotating the body.

42. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the torsion arm is adapted to connect to the first head.

43. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the torsion arm is capable of being removed from the first head.

44. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the torsion arm comprises at least one of the following: a wrench, a ratchet, a bar stock, or integrated portion of the body.

45. (New) A method for tightening a strap for securing freight, comprising:
providing a tightening device, comprising
a body capable of being rotated and comprising:
a means for holding a first end of a strap; and
a first head positioned at a first end of the body for receiving a torsion arm; and
a clamp coupled to the body for holding a second end of the strap and
comprising:
at least two clamp arms, wherein at least one arm is rotatably coupled to the
clamp; and
a cam rotatably coupled to the clamp for securing the at least two clamp arms at
a second end;
holding a first end of a strap with the means for holding a first end of a strap;

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT*In re Application of: Vick**Serial No. 10/676,579**Filing Date: January 29, 2004**Page 6 of 10*

securing a portion of the strap with the clamp; and
rotating the body, thereby increasing tension on the strap.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein securing a portion of the strap with the clamp comprises rotating the cam until the two clamp arms contact the strap.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein rotating the body comprises connecting a torsion arm to the first head, and applying a force to the torsion arm.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the means for holding a strap comprises a slot.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein holding a first end of a strap with the means for holding a first end of a strap comprises inserting the strap into the slot.

50. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising a locking arm coupled to the cam for attaching the cam to the clamp arm.

51. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the torsion arm is capable of rotating the body.

52. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the torsion arm is adapted to connect to the first head.

53. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the torsion arm is capable of being removed from the first head.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In re Application of: Vick

Serial No. 10/676,579

Filing Date: January 29, 2004

Page 7 of 10

54. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the torsion arm comprises at least one of the following: a wrench, a ratchet, a bar stock, or integrated portion of the body.